

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 DPW-01 IO-10 AID-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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R 241100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

CDR JCRC NKP

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJ: LAO SPOKSEMEN COMMENT ON REFUGEES, THAKHEK
SITUATION, MIAS AND OTHER MATTERS

REF: VIENTIANE A-071, JUNE 10, 1974

1. AT WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 23, LAO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG STATED THAT CABINET DECIDED JANUARY 22, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRIME MINISTER'S ORDER, THAT EIGHT STRIKERS ARRESTED DURING RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN THAKHEK SHOULD BE HANDED OVER TO JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA) IN VIENTIANE FOR INTERROGATION AND INVESTIGATION.

2. CONCERNING REFUGEES, OUDAY SAID THAT JCCIA WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESETTLING REFUGEES AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PUBLIC WORKS
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AND ECONOMY/PLAN WOULD BE INCLUDED ON JCCIA'S SUB-

COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES. HE ADDED THAT ROYAL AIR LAO (RAL) HAD BEEN SELECTED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR REFUGEES.

3. OUDAY STATED CABINET DECIDED TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO PAY PROTECTIVE MILITARY BATTALIONS AND JOINT POLICE FORCES IN THE NEUTRALIZED CAPITALS OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID COST WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 50-60 MILLION KIP VPER MONTH. (COMMENT: OTHER SOURCES INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT CABINET DID NOT REACH DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT.)

4. OUDAY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO THAI PEOPLE FOR UNDERSTANDING SHOWN BY THAI DURING RECENT MEETING OF THE THAI-LAO COMMISSION IN BANGKOK. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT CABINET HAD APPROVED HOLDING OF "ECUMENICAL FORUM" IN FEBRUARY ON THE SUBJECT OF INDOCHINA. THE FORUM APPARENTLY WILL BE SPONSORED BY "FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND RECONCILIATION IN INDOCHINA" (REF AIR), WHICH IS RELATED TO WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

5. IN PRESS CONFERENCES FOLLOWING 45TH PLENARY JCCIA SESSION JANUARY 23, VIENTIANE SIDE JCCIA SPOKESMAN LANE PATHAMMAVONG AND LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) SPOKESMAN PHONESAY SANTHAVASY STATED THAT REFUGEES WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGES BY LAND AND AIR. PHONESAY SAID TEST FLIGHTS WILL BEGIN JANUARY 24, WITH TWO HELICOPTERS FLYING TO PHONE SAVAN AND ONE RAL C-46 MAKING A SUBSEQUENT FLIGHT. IF FIELD PROVES SAFE FOR LARGER PLANES, THE JCCIA HAS GRANTED RAL PERMISSION TO LEASE RLAF C-123S TO CARRY REFUGEES. PHONESAY NOTED THAT 6,590 PERSONS WANT TO RETURN TO XIENG KHOUANG. LANE STATED RESETTLEMENT OPERATION MAY GET UNDER WAY AS EARLY AS JANUARY 27.

6. CONCERNING BOUNDARY MARKERS BETWEEN THE TWO ZONES, SPOKESMAN SAID JCCIA WILL DISPATCH MOBILE TEAM JANUARY 28 TO PHOU SOUNG/NANANE AREA IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE AND ANOTHER TO KHOUA SONG HONG/KOUAN PHA VANG IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE TO IMPLANT MARKERS THERE.

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7. LPF SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT ROAD BETWEEN BAN HOUET SAI (BHS) AND NAM THA AND RIVER ROUTE BETWEEN BHS AND LUANG PRABANG WILL BE OPENED TO TRAFFIC, AS WILL "ROUTE 8 TO PAK KADING." (PRESUMABLY PHONESAY MEANS THAT ROUTES 8/81 WILL BE OPENED TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM NORHT VIET-NAM.)

8. BOTH SPOKSEMAN CONFIRMED THAT EIGHT THAKHEK

STRIKERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO VIENTIANE. PHONESAY
SAID JCCIA WILL INVESTIGATE AND ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE
ON THIS MATTER.

9. CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS, SPOKESMAN
SAID JOINT POLICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPRESSING THESE
ACTIVITIES AND PUNISHING THEIR AUTHORS.

10. ON MIAS, SPOKESMAN STATED THAT MILITARY SUBCOMMITTEE
CONTINUES TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE. THEY NOTED FURTHER THAT
VIENTIANE SIDE HAS RAISED THIS MATTER TWICE WITH LPF
AND HANDED OVER LISTS OF FAR, THAI AND US MIAS SEVERAL
WEEKS AGO. THESE LISTS WERE SENT TO SAM NEUA BUT LPF
HAS YET TO FURNISH COMPARABLE LIST OF ITS MIA PERSONNEL.
WHITEHOUSE

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